

## MAY 1 SEEN BY WASHINGTON AS KAISER'S DAY OF DOOM—LABOR REVOLT EXPECTED

BY BASIL M. MANLY

Washington, April 30.—All official Washington is today looking forward to May 1 as the day that may seal the kaiser's doom and mark the coming of the end.

May day—the labor day of European revolutionists, always set apart by the reds for turbulent outbreaks—this year carries the threat for Germany of actual revolution, which may not be as sweeping as that of Russia, but is none the less a dire menace to Germany's power of resistance.

Every dispatch from Germany, according to an authority close to the American state department, contains a more or less veiled recognition of this menace.

Most significant as expressive of the imperial government's dread of May 1 is the sudden adjournment of the reichstag on the very first day of the new session until May 2.

Equally significant is the fact that this session, called specially to receive an address from Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, heard not one syllable from the chancellor, but was precipitately dissolved when Ledebour, leader of the radical Socialists, insisted on a vigorous investigation of the present system of food distribution.

The Russian revolution, it will be remembered, had its origin in the dissolution of the duma and had as its first over act a series of strikes in protest against the existing distribution of food.

Germany, according to dispatches which passed the official censor, is just emerging from a series of food strikes among her munitions workers, and at least 200,000 others in scattered trades.

If the munitions workers, the best fed among Germany's industrial population, have reached a point where they are ready to risk death as a pro-

test against continued underfeeding, what must be the condition of the rest of the German workers?

"It is openly threatened," says the Berlin Lokalanzeiger, "that we must be prepared for new outbreaks of ill will if certain claims are not acceded to. It is also reported that May 1 there will be another general strike for 24 hours."

This is confirmed by the Berlin Tageblatt, which says: "A renewal of the strike of munitions workers on May day is being discussed in some munitions workers' circles."

To add flames to the tinder of revolution already existing in Germany, comes the announcement through the American department of state of the formation in Berne, Switzerland, of a well financed committee for propaganda in favor of the establishment of a republican form of government in Germany.

Gep. Groener, head of German munitions factories, it is true, has announced that all further attempts at munitions strikes will be ruthlessly suppressed with bullets.

But this merely adds to the probability of real revolution.

In all history no great strike of determined, starving workers has ever been suppressed by bloodshed.

If the May day strikes of the Germans run true to form the blood of the strikers will be the signal for a widespread revolt that will tax Prussian militarism to the utmost.

The Russian revolution began as a series of food strikes and did not reach the stage of popular revolt until strikers were shot down.

What the outcome will be, depends on how far the German private soldier has been brutalized by Prussian militarism.

If the German soldier is still as human as the soldiers of Russia, he will not fire into the mobs of his starving brothers and sisters, especially when